

January 3, 2019: 1 PM

Waiting for the furnace repair man to call. The furnace is old and it has too many fussy little moving parts and, with maddening regularity, something goes wrong. In the last few months of 2018, we had two furnace breakdowns, and between the two of them it cost over \$1,000 to get the furnace back in operation. In the middle of the night, last night, I woke up and sensed immediately that the house was too cold. Maybe it's the mild weather and the furnace is not coming on, said I to myself. When I woke up at 8 A.M., and it was still too cold in the house, I knew for sure that something was wrong. Got dressed and went down and, sure enough, the fire was out, and there was not a single ounce of ashes in the ash basket, which means that it must have broken not long after I took the ashes out around 10 P.M. (when everything seemed normal with the furnace).

Resolving nagging financial issues: Yesterday was a very productive day. Finally, DWP produced the utility bills from 2018 and told me what my half of that expense was. After deductions of the money that DWP owed me, the final bill for me for the year was \$606.42. And so, as of January 1, 2019, our accounts are all settled, and I don't owe him a nickel. With that done, I then reconciled my checkbook and can face the new year knowing how much workable cash I have in my checking account (around \$25,000). Also yesterday, it now seems virtually certain that Mastercard has cancelled the \$500+ unauthorized charge to my account. It also appears that they will issue me a new card. Still waiting for the final papers on the disputed charge from Mastercard. Unresolved financial issues and unpaid bills drive me crazy, and so it appears that the road ahead will be smoother than during the final months of 2018. Two substantial household expenses coming up: fixing the furnace, and filling the coal bin. If we're lucky, maybe the furnace will be repaired today. Five tons of coal ordered and to be delivered next week.

Internet Archive: Everything now in perfect shape.
Two items there:

Delaware and Hudson Railroad [the 24 volumes
in my D&H series]

25 Delaware and Hudson Railroad Powell
[Addendum 1 to my 24 volume D&H series].

Such pleasure it gives me to know that they are there, as “locked” PDF files created by SRP, and “permanently” saved in an archive that is accessible to anyone, anywhere in the world.

One unresolved archival matter: IMR in Hazleton has had, for about two months, a huge quantity of microfiche cards (about 700 cards as I recall) that I want them to convert to digital files. For two months, I have been waiting for them to quote me a price to do the whole job. Tony is the one who has to come up with a price. I’ve talked with Mike on two occasions and it is he who will do the job. He did a “test job” on some of the cards, and he did a wonderful job. I may have to drive down to Hazleton and talk to Tony in person in order to get a price quote. I have two complete sets of the microfiche cards (an original and one copy), but I want them converted to digital files. Microfiche cards are a thing of the past. I am probably the only person in Pennsylvania who has a microfiche card reader (actually I have two of them). Digital files are the archival medium of the present and, very probably, the future.

As soon as this furnace repair is over, and a coal delivery date is scheduled (next week some time), I will take strong action to resolve this microfiche card/digital files issue/question.